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**VIA E-MAIL**

October 8, 2003

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Department of Telecommunications & Energy  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
One South Station – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Boston, MA 02110

Re: D.T.E. 03-87

Dear Ms. Cottrell,

Taconic Telephone Corp. (“Taconic Telephone”) hereby submits this letter in lieu of comments in the above-captioned proceeding regarding double utility poles. Taconic Telephone is an incumbent, rural telephone company serving over 28,000 access lines in 11 rate centers in New York and Massachusetts. In the Commonwealth, Taconic Telephone serves fewer than 800 access lines, exclusively in the Town of Hancock in Berkshire County.

Upon receiving the September 10, 2003 Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments, Taconic Telephone performed a field audit of its utility poles in Massachusetts. The field audit revealed two incidents of double utility poles in Hancock. In both cases, the telephone company discovered that the electric company, Massachusetts Electric, had set new poles. In these situations, Taconic Telephone intends to transfer its telephone facilities to the newly set pole as soon as possible, but in no case longer than 90 days from the date of this letter.

A large majority of new poles are set to accommodate customer needs. In those cases, the engineering departments of both Taconic Telephone and Massachusetts Electric typically work together on the project and telephone facilities are transferred promptly in order to provision the requested services to the customer.

In other cases, Massachusetts Electric supplies a pole proposal to Taconic Telephone when it intends to set a new pole, however there is no process in place for Taconic Telephone to receive notice that the pole has in fact been set. Without that information, Taconic Telephone is unable to determine when the 90-day time period commences. However, the informal process that has developed over the years between the companies has been for Massachusetts Electric, the custodian of the pole, to contact Taconic Telephone when its contractors are in the Hancock area to remove old poles. At that time, Taconic Telephone would send a crew to transfer the telephone facilities to the new pole and Massachusetts Electric, or its contractor, would take down the old pole.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (518) 392-1474 or [lpurdy@taconic.net](mailto:lpurdy@taconic.net).

Very truly yours,

Lisa Ruoff Purdy

Lisa Ruoff Purdy  
Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Manager

cc: William H. Stevens, Jr. (via e-mail)  
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